

Jack was a prominent and instrumental leader in the consumer electronics industry and he will be dearly missed by his many colleagues and friends across the nation.

As a young man, Jack earned a Bachelor's of Science at the University of Wisconsin—Madison and served in the United States Navy from 1955 to 1957. After beginning his entrepreneurial career in Minneapolis, Minnesota as a buyer for Dayton's Department Store, he relocated with his family in 1968 to New Jersey to join Matsushita Electric Industrial Corporation, known today as Panasonic Corporation. During his tenure at Panasonic, he served as Vice President of the Southern Group of Matsushita Electric Corporation of America (MECA) from 1972 to 1982 before becoming President of MECA's Quasar Division in Chicago, Illinois. From 1989 to 1994, as Vice President of MECA, he was responsible for operations and headquarters functions at the company.

From 1986 to 1994, Jack volunteered for several leadership positions with the Consumer Electronics Group, known today as the Consumer Technology Association. As Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Video Chair, he played a key role in the nation's switch to digital and high-definition television, and in the words of CTA President Gary Shapiro, "Television as we know it today . . . would not be possible without the contributions of Jack and his colleagues."

In addition to his accomplishments in the consumer electronics industry, Jack was actively involved in his community, both as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for the Planning Commission in Morgan County, Georgia and as the County's Habitat for Humanity Executive Director from 1996 to 2008. It was his honor to carry the Olympic Torch for the Atlanta Olympic Games in 1996.

Jack passed away on February 11, 2016 from Parkinson's disease and is survived by Nancy, his wife of fifty-six years, and their children: Susan and Felix Vizurraga, Jill and Mat Morgan, Scott Pluckhahn and Keith Crosby, Thomas Pluckhahn and Becky Zarger, and Michael Pluckhahn. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

IN MEMORY OF BRIGADIER
GENERAL RUFUS C. LAZZELL

HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2016

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rufus C. Lazzell, retired Brigadier General and former mayor of Punta Gorda, Florida, who sadly passed away on Saturday, March 12, 2016 at the age of 86.

Rufus Lazzell served as an officer in the United States Army for thirty years during which time he fought and commanded valiantly in two of our nation's wars, Korea and Vietnam. He commanded the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment (Ranger) during the first battle of Prek Klok in 1967 and then went on to hold multiple staff positions throughout the Army, including working for the Army Chief of Staff. He retired from military service in 1981, earning the rank of Brigadier General. His service awards include: the Army Distinguished Service Medal, two awards of the Sil-

ver Star for gallantry in combat, three awards of the Legion of Merit, three awards of the Bronze Star Medal (including one for valor), Defense Superior Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, four awards of the Air Medal, two awards of the Army Commendation Medal and the Purple Heart.

Although retired from military service, Rufus continued to serve the people of the United States. He served on the Punta Gorda City Council for eight years including four years as mayor. He was a strong supporter of preserving the Charlotte County Court House, a founding member of the Military Heritage Museum, was the museum's first inductee on their "Wall of Warrior", and was the president of the Cultural Center of Charlotte County. Although he held high positions of power, Rufus' magnanimous character is to be admired and was highlighted when he worked as a sales clerk in a local hardware store because he "wanted to learn the hardware business and find out how to fix things."

Rufus was more than a pillar in the community, he was an intricate member of the community's foundation. Rufus is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Jo Jac, daughters Victoria and Linda, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I speak for all of Charlotte County in saying that our thoughts and prayers are with Brigadier General Lazzell's family, as well as his friends, co-workers and the entire community as they mourn his passing. He will be missed.

RECOGNIZING NACDS RxIMPACT DAY

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2016

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Eighth Annual NACDS RxIMPACT Day on Capitol Hill. This is a special day where we recognize pharmacy's contribution to the American healthcare system. This year's event, organized by the National Association of Chain Drug Stores, takes place on March 16–17. Nearly 400 individuals from the pharmacy community—including practicing pharmacists, pharmacy school faculty and students, state pharmacy association representatives and pharmacy company leaders—will visit Capitol Hill. They will share their views with Congress about the importance of supporting legislation that protects access to community and neighborhood pharmacies and that utilizes pharmacists to improve the quality and reduce the costs of providing healthcare.

Advocates from over 40 states have travelled to Washington to talk about the pharmacy community's contributions in over 40,000 community pharmacies nationwide. These important healthcare providers are here to educate Congress about the value of pharmacy and the important access provided by community pharmacies in the nation's healthcare delivery system. And just as these providers travelled to meet with us, Members of Congress and their staff have toured retail chain pharmacies in our own communities more than 400 times since 2009.

Patients have always relied on their local pharmacist to meet their healthcare needs.

The local pharmacist is a trusted, highly accessible healthcare provider deeply committed to providing the highest quality care in the most efficient manner possible.

As demand for healthcare services continues to grow, pharmacists have expanded their role in healthcare delivery, partnering with physicians, nurses and other healthcare providers to meet their patients' needs. Innovative services provided by pharmacists do even more to improve patient healthcare. Pharmacists are highly valued by those that rely on them most—those in rural and underserved areas, as well as older Americans, and those struggling to manage chronic diseases. Pharmacy services improve patients' quality of life as well as healthcare affordability. By helping patients take their medications effectively and providing preventive services, pharmacists help avoid more costly forms of care. Pharmacists also help patients identify strategies to save money, such as through better understanding of their pharmacy benefits, using generic medications, and obtaining 90-day supplies of prescription drugs from local pharmacies.

Pharmacists are the nation's most accessible healthcare providers. In many communities, especially in rural areas, the local pharmacist is a patient's most direct link to healthcare. Eighty-six percent of Americans reside within a five-mile radius of a community pharmacy. Pharmacists are one of our nation's most trusted healthcare professionals. Utilizing their specialized education, pharmacists play a major role in medication therapy management, disease-state management, immunizations, healthcare screenings, and other healthcare services designed to improve patient health and reduce overall healthcare costs. Pharmacists are also expanding their role into new models of care based on quality of services and outcomes, such as accountable care organizations (ACOs) and medical homes.

The pharmacy advocates of NACDS RxIMPACT Day on Capitol Hill are promoting legislation, H.R. 592/S. 314, the Pharmacy and Medically Underserved Areas Enhancement Act, to allow Medicare Part B to utilize pharmacists to their full capability by providing underserved beneficiaries with services, subject to state scope of practice laws. They are also working to ensure that the TRICARE pharmacy program keeps prescription copays affordable for beneficiaries as well as preserving their ability to choose to fill their prescriptions at their community pharmacy. They also are promoting measures, such as H.R. 793/S. 1190, the Ensuring Seniors Access to Local Pharmacies Act of 2015 to guarantee Medicare Part D access and transparency.

I believe Congress should look at every opportunity to make sure that pharmacists are allowed to utilize their training to the fullest to provide the services that can improve care, increase access and lower costs. In recognition of the Eighth Annual NACDS RxIMPACT Day on Capitol Hill, I would like to congratulate pharmacy leaders, pharmacists, students, and the entire pharmacy community represented by the National Association of Chain Drug Stores, for their contributions to the health and wellness of the American people.